

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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5 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Research Paper Presentations, 5th Functions Class ISC

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] and I attended the Research Paper presentations by the 5th (and probably last) Functions Course at the ISC on Spy Wednesday, 29 March 1972. Considering that three of the instructors and one of the students lost their jobs during the course (as well as the announcement of the school's closing), a low quality of presentation would not have been surprising. But there were some very interesting papers--three in particular which should be mentioned.

2. Several of the papers were poor, making you surmise that those students were not the right ones for the course, or at least had not figured out clearly what they were trying to do. None of the graphics in any of the talks were suitable for presentation to an audience of professionals. I felt incapable of judging the talks of any of the NSA students, since they use a jargon all their own. But the three talks I will describe certainly swung the balance of the class effort to favorable.

3. The first was a talk by First Lt. Kenneth Bowen of the Marine Corps on: "Detainee Reporting". Lt. Bowen was a top sergeant in the Marines for two decades, and only recently accepted a field commission as lieutenant. He is a tough little

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guy, the first to admit his educational background was deficient compared to his classmates, and on the second day of class told the instructors that there must have been a mistake made because he was obviously the wrong guy for this course. In the end he turned out to be the classic example of how the man who really knows the job is sometimes a better system designer than the best outsider.

4. For twenty years Lt. Bowen has specialized in interrogating captured prisoners--the prime intelligence source for tactical commanders. Despite "Hogan's Heroes", running an interrogation center (PW camp) is no picnic, and his job had some unique problems. He not only had to provide his commander with all tactical intelligence possible--where enemy division X was and whether it was advancing or retreating--he had also to provide all social services for a city the size of Eugene, Oregon or Rock Island, Illinois, helped by only a handful of guards, most of whom were convalescents or other second-line troops. At the same time he had to maintain complete data on each person in the camp against the numerous surprise visits by the International Red Cross (who often as not were not friendly to U.S. interests), e.g., he was supposed to know the religious preference of each prisoner, and the Geneva Convention specifies he must provide religious services for each sect in the camp--yet he often had more than 50,000 Chinese in his camps in Korea. Incidentally, the collection problem in

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Vietnam (where he's had three tours) is the reverse of the one in Korea. Where the Koreans and Chinese were like clams, the North Vietnamese have no security consciousness whatsoever, talk their heads off, and inundate the interrogator in a sea of data.

5. Lt. Bowen described a system he developed at the Functions Course which could help solve some of these problems. A CRT in a portable van will relay information on each detainee back to the command ship (which has its own ADP facilities) providing the commander with coordinated intelligence concerning the enemy, but also giving the PW camp commander a Detainee Skills Bank as a byproduct. The powers-to-be were so impressed with this system that it is going to be field tested at a very large amphibious exercise involving the entire Atlantic Marine Amphibious Forces on the Carolina beaches this May.

25X1A 6. [REDACTED] of CIA's Office of Finance had a much less dramatic problem, but came up with a very well reasoned, closely coordinated solution. CIA cuts over 5,000 travel orders a year, but has no way to analyze or handle the information they should know about travel. They know only the gross amount spent on travel and shipment and storage of household effects, but this cannot help them very much when it comes time to make budget planning projections. She designed two files (current and history) which will give her home office the information they need. I was particularly impressed with the way she kept going back to her

office to see if her system really did solve the problems. We have the word of her supervisor that when her system is installed it will save quite a few steps in the budget process, and perhaps quite a bit of money as well.

7. The third presentation was of interest not so much because it represented an ingenious solution to a particular problem, but because the subject concerned an old CODIB project, the Intelligence Subject Code. The Navy has a shipboard intelligence system with a data base of about 5,000 documents (on microfiche) the index of which is ⁱⁿ on the old ISC and can be handled by the shipboard data processing equipment. Not only is the ISC not a viable code any more, (not having been maintained since 1967), but Navy's indexers and shipboard personnel also had a lot of trouble handling the ISC's six digit numeric code. The Navy is looking for a way to convert from ISC's numeric to some system of natural language terms. Two different groups of terms were examined--one set chosen from the terms in the ISC itself (code equivalents) and the other chosen from lists known to be of interest to Navy analysts. In other words, which was the best way to build their thesaurus of terms. This conversion project was started in a previous functions course, and Mr. Michael Leck of NRTSC carried it a step further. In his presentations he gave the results of a test with a corpus of about 30 documents on the two

sets of terms, with figures on their precision and recall. The discussion afterwards brought out quite a bit about reasons why field analysts considered the ISC a failure (applicable to the Content Control Code?) and about thesauruses in general. I told Mr. Leck a bit about the efforts of the CCC Group. I feel that a thesaurus might work satisfactorily for the Navy since the data base is small and their interests fairly specific. But from what a DIA librarian at the course said about the new DIA thesaurus, I feel that it might be an entirely different story with DIA and their voluminous data and manifold interests.

25X1A 8. I admit to being a rather skeptical person by nature, and I felt that [REDACTED] thesis when he briefed the IHC--namely, that improvements graduates of the ISC courses can make in their home agencies more than pay for the expense of the ISC--remained to be proved. I approached these presentations with a "show me" attitude. Yet I could not help but be impressed with Lt. Bowen and [REDACTED] presentations, and began to suspect there might be more truth than "hard sell" in [REDACTED] thesis. 25X1A

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[REDACTED]

Sample of
query against
Lt. Bowen's
System

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE COMPOUND WHO ARE IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION
BUT THE AMERICAN STAFF IS TOO SHORT HANDED TO ASSIST. LET'S QUERY OUR
RECORDS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT ANY DETAINED PERSONNEL ARE
QUALIFIED TO ASSIST:

doctor\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?medical\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?\
THIS (THESE) DOCUMENT(S) HAS (HAVE) BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE
101533
622434

2 DOCUMENT(S) HAS (HAVE) BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE

BEGIN DOCUMENT SPECIFICATION

?NOW THE G2 CALLS TO INFORM US THAT A RAID IS BEING CONDUCTED IN
THE AREA OF BT8411, BT8412 and BT8410. ARE THERE ANY DETAINEES
CAPTURED IN THE AREA WHOM WE MIGHT USE AS GUIDES? WELL, LET'S
SEE:

BT8411\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?BT8412\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?BT8410\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

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S51055

?\
THIS (THESE) DOCUMENT(S) HAS (HAVE) BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE
011241
015200
11044
146233
402443
274230
506721
305454

8 DOCUMENT(S) HAS (HAVE) BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE

BEGIN DOCUMENT SPECIFICATION

?WE SEE THAT EIGHT DETAINEES HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE AREAS MENTIONED
BUT RATHER THAN WASTE OUR TIME ON USELESS INTERROGATIONS, LET'S WEED
OUT ALL BUT THE CATEGORY "B" DETAINEES:

BT8411:B\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?BT8412:B\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?BT8410:B\
OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR-OR

?\
THIS (THESE) DOCUMENT(S) HAS (HAVE) BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE
011241
015200
11044
146233
402443
506721
305454

7 DOCUMENT(S) HAS (HAVE) BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE

BEGIN DOCUMENT SPECIFICATION

?\
DO YOU WISH TO LIST OPTIONS

?n
OPTION?

?d

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?u

file ind is classified U
reclassify your working storage
ENTER DOCUMENT DESIGNATION.
?

ACTUALLY, BY DOING THIS WE ONLY ELIMINATED ONE PERSON BUT WITH INTERROGATOR
illegal input. retype ?

ACTUALLY BY DOING THIS WE ONLY ELIMINATED ONE PERSON BUT WITH TIME BEING
AS VALUABLE AS IT IS, EVEN THAT ONE HELPS. NOW LET'S TAKE AT A LOOK
AT A COUPLE OF THE RECORDS LISTED ABOVE AND CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY
ONES FOR THE G2 TO SEND WITH HIS PATROL:

146233

file subj is classified U
reclassify your working storage
?u

DOCUMENT 146233

CIV

TAN YUNG

B

ANT YUNG

NONE

NONE

LABORER

NONE

UNK

UNK

UNK

BT3412

22013

290030Z FEB

NONE

7SEPT47

CHIN

CHINA

M

PCHIN

SRUSS

ENTER DOCUMENT DESIGNATION.
?

TAN YUNG IS NOT A LIKELY CANDIDATE. FIRST OF ALL HE'S A CIVILIAN AND SECONDLY HE ONLY SPEAKS CHINESE AND RUSSIAN SO LET'S
LOOK AT ANOTHER ONE:
402443

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5

SOUTH YR

PFC

TANKS

MECHANIC

R20

QUESON DIST

FRONT 4

REINFORCE

BT8411

22013

280709ZFEB

NONE

28JUNE28

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VIET
NVIET
M
PVIET
SFRENCH
*KNOWLEDGEABLE OF PERSONALITIES

ENTER DOCUMENT DESIGNATION.
?

HERE'S PAYDIRT. THIS MAN IS A PW AND HE ALSO SPEAKS LANGUAGES IN
WHICH WE HAVE INTERPRETERS TRAINED SO HE'S OUR MAN

\
reclassify write file pass
?u

fileoption is classified U
file pass is classified U
these files will be accessed during execution
reclassify your working storage
?u

DO YOU WISH TO LIST OPTIONS
?n
OPTION?
?e

ready
*resave option
please give file classification-option
u
data saved—option
*bye
**time sharing off at 13.09 on 03/27/72